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UPPER MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025 – 7:00 PM

*This meeting was held in person and live streamed through the Upper Mount Bethel Township Facebook page.

I.

Supervisor Bermingham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance were Supervisor Bermingham, Supervisor Friedman, Supervisor Eckman, Supervisor Erler, Supervisor Albert, Township Manager Graziano, Township Solicitor Karasek, and Township Engineer Coyle.

Supervisor Bermingham asked for a moment of silence for Matthew Bichler, who passed away after a terrible accident.

II.

APPROVE THE AGENDA

Supervisor Friedman to amend the agenda, moving Executive Session to number V, before the Public Hearing.

MOTION by Supervisor Erler to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

III.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Cole, Riverton Rd., commented on the recent vandalism involving campaign signs. The issue appears to be targeting Courtney Gilmour. Stealing signs is a criminal act.

Charles Baltic, Laurel Hill Rd., Elected member Northampton County Republican Committee (NCRC) from the Slateford District of UMBT. The NCRC adopted a Resolution on the 23rd of October 2025, to censure Mr. Bermingham for taking actions

consistently and directly detrimental to the Republican Party in Northampton County and in Upper Mt. Bethel Township and directly contrary to the expressed wishes of the Republican electors in Upper Mt. Bethel Township in the 2025 primary petition process and the 2025 Republican primary. This Resolution was presented to be made part of the permanent record. Supervisor Bermingham asked Charles about being kicked out of the NC Republican committee. Charles stated that was not in his tenure on the committee.

Judith Henckel, Robin Hood Rd., commented on stolen campaign signs and all the misinformation that is being spread in the Township.

Supervisor Erler stated that he personally has never taken one of his opponents' signs nor has he ever advocated for any signs to be removed. He has heard that recently some of his signs have been taken down as well.

Tom Gilmour, Morningside Dr. commented on the stolen campaign signs for Courtney Gilmour, from public locations, private homes, and businesses. Tom reminded Supervisor Erler and his supporters that unlawfully removing political signs is a federal offense. Supervisor Erler reiterated that he has never taken down any of the signs nor has he advocated for anyone to do that and it feels as though he is being held at a false accusation.

Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy,. commented on the stolen campaign signs, stating that it happens. Ron also commented on a billboard that says, Courtney Gilmour, who is running for office, will stop reckless and wasteful spending in Upper Mount Bethel Township. Frankly, he does not see any wasteful and reckless spending and feels as though the BOS and administration has done a very good job. Ron stated that a little prayer doesn't hurt any organization.

Fran Visicaro, N. Delaware Dr., commented on the division of our town, we need to unite.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Eckman announced the Veterans Day Celebration on November 11th at the Community Park, gate opens at 5pm, fireworks at 6:30 pm.

Supervisor Albert announced the SBVA fundraising event on November 8th, at the Bangor HS, featuring the Swing Time Dolls. Tickets in advance are \$30 and \$35 at the door, tickets are available here at the Township.

Supervisor Erler announced the letter received from the Slate Belt Museum informing the Board of all the work, upgrades, and improvements within this year. The Township's

donation went to a worthy charity. They will also be having a Veterans Day Event November 11th, 10am-noon.

Supervisor Bermingham announced the EMS informational meeting will be held virtually on November 20th to discuss a regional ambulance. Thank you to the Mt. Bethel Pharmacy for hosting the Trunk or Treat at the Park and thank you to the Mt. Bethel Ladies Auxiliary for hosting the Trunk or Treat at the Firehouse. The Ladies Auxiliary will be collecting food for Thanksgiving. Supervisor Bermingham and Supervisor Friedman had their office hours on October 20th where Alloy 5 discussed the Feasibility Study. On November 8th, 10am-2pm, the MBFC and Ladies Auxiliary will be having their open house. Ron Angle commented on the Feasibility Study. He said the original plan was to have the municipal building at the Park. Manager Graziano stated that we are now considering the corn field off to the right coming into the park.

Manager Graziano reiterated that if anyone would like to exchange their 96-gal toter for the smaller 35-gal toter, to please let us know. There is a form on the website, or you can come down to fill out the exchange form. Manager Graziano spoke of the use of ATVs/minibikes that continue speeding on Township roads and most recently, and upsetting were a red ATV and a green and white minibike, going through the newly developed soccer fields at the park. Thank you to the road crew for doing a great job on both the soccer fields and softball fields and to the MBFD and Nbfd for their assistance in watering the fields. And thank you to Lou Pektor for giving us 28 loads of topsoil to finish at the park, which saved the Township about \$25k-\$28k. Manager Graziano stated that we do not use liquid fuels money to buy machinery/equipment. That money goes into the roads only. There is a machinery fund that is specifically for buying, renting, and repairing our equipment.

V.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Recess to Executive Session at 7:42 pm to discuss legal questions regarding the Public Hearing.

The meeting reconvened at 7:49 pm.

Solicitor Karasek stated some attorney/client questions with respect to the Water Well Permitting Ordinance were discussed in Executive Session.

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to proceed with the Public Hearing on the Water Well Permitting Ordinance, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

VI.

PUBLIC HEARING

Water Well Permitting Ordinance

Solicitor Karasek stated this Public Hearing was advertised under his signature on October 15, 2025, and under Manager Graziano on October 10th and 17th, 2025.

Solicitor Karasek stated that there are three classes of applicants in this Ordinance. Class I, applicant for a permit for an individual well where there is no subdivision of land/land development, intended for a single-family residential dwelling, it shall also not

include the projective water use in excess of 1000 gallons per day. Class II applicant, proposing water use in excess of 1000 gallons but less than 4000 gallons per day or seeking installation of a well or wells in conjunction with a minor subdivision (less than 5 lots) or a small land development. Class III applicant proposing water use in excess of 4000 gallons per day or seeking installation of a well or wells in conjunction with a major subdivision (5 or greater lots) or a large land development.

Public Comment-Marty Pinter, Lindsey Lane, asked in regard to requiring construction standards for new wells and modifications to existing wells, how are we going to police that regarding existing wells? Supervisor Friedman stated only new wells. Supervisor Erler stated that he went over it a few months ago, he saw this was a way to close the loophole that the class III was not in our Ordinance. Ron Angle, Million Dollar Hwy, stated that our Township is a very wet Township, why all these years without a well Ordinance, what's the logic to a well Ordinance. Supervisor Friedman stated that you cannot associate surface water with groundwater. Supervisor Friedman is working on having a groundwater survey completed. Supervisor Friedman stated that RPL showed the loophole in the Ordinance.

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to close the Hearing, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.

VII.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Ordinance 2025-01 Water Well Permitting Ordinance-**MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-01, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0
2. 2026 Proposed Budget Advertisement-Manager Graziano stated that by statute, we have to advertise the proposed 2026 budget. Thank you to Supervisor Birmingham, Supervisor Friedman, and Supervisor Erler for their assistance with the budget. There is no increase this year, the Township is in good shape. We need to advertise once in the paper and give 20 days for public review. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to advertise the proposed 2026 budget, seconded by Supervisor Eckman. Vote: 5-0.
3. 2026 Open Positions/RFP Advertisement-Manager Graziano stated this is annual procedure, to advertise for all open vendor positions and open seats. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to advertise for the 2026 open positions, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.
4. Community Park Softball Fields Fencing Final Payment-Engineer Coyle stated that the work has been completed on both softball fields at the park. All close-out documents have been submitted, therefore, Engineer Coyle recommends the final payment to New Holland Chainlink, LLC in the amount of \$96,129.21. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to approve the final payment to New Holland Chainlink LLC in the amount of \$96,129.21, seconded by Supervisor Erler. Vote: 5-0.
5. Heritage Conservancy Renewal Agreement-Manager Graziano discussed the agreement for professional services with Heritage Conservancy. Solicitor Karasek has reviewed the agreement and suggested a few minor changes,

which Matt Babbitt agreed to. There are some increases in fees in regard to the actual individual specialist. Supervisor Erler asked if there was another company that does this type of work. Manager Graziano stated that it is very difficult to find a company that does this type of work. Manager Graziano stated that Heritage does a good job and speaking as an Open Space Board Member and for Laura Bocko, Chairman of the Open Space Board, they recommend Heritage Conservancy. **MOTION** by Supervisor Friedman to approve the Heritage Conservancy Renewal Agreement, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

6. Purdue University Partnership-Supervisor Bermingham stated that this is an idea that he would like the Board to consider. He teaches for Purdue University Global. Purdue University approached him (because they know he is part of a local government) and asked him to think about establishing a no-cost partnership between UMBT and Purdue University. There are three areas, 1) provide tuition (20% tuition reduction for undergraduates or 14% reduction for graduate students) benefits to employees/immediate family members of the Township, 2) employment opportunities, 3) student field experience. If we make Purdue University up front, maybe other Universities would offer something like this. Solicitor Karasek will review the agreement. The agreement can be terminated for any reason with a 30-day notice. This will be on the agenda for November 10th.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor Friedman to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm, seconded by Supervisor Albert. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by Cindy Beck-Recording Secretary

A Resolution, adopted this day, the 23rd of October, 2025, by the Northampton County Republican Committee, an organization ordained under Commonwealth of Pennsylvania election law, providing as follows:

WHEREAS, in the Township of Upper Mt. Bethel, in Northampton County Pennsylvania (UMBT), a registered Republican, Mr. John Birmingham, is an elected Republican Supervisor of UMBT, and is also the Chair of the Supervisors of UMBT;

WHEREAS, a registered Republican, Mr. Jonathan Erler, was appointed as a Supervisor of UMBT in 2024 to fill the unexpired term of Mr. David Due;

WHEREAS, Mr. Erler has served UMBT as Supervisor ably and faithfully as a Republican while in appointed office;

WHEREAS, Mr. Erler is seeking to be elected as a Republican Supervisor of UMBT, and appeared on the May 2025 primary ballot as a Republican candidate for UMBT Supervisor, and was selected by the Republican electors as the Republican candidate for the November 2025 general election ballot for UMBT Supervisor;

WHEREAS, Mr. Birmingham is actively opposing the election of Mr. Erler as UMBT Supervisor, and is actively supporting the Democratic candidate for UMBT Supervisor, Ms. Courtney Gilmour, including: (i) writing, sending and publishing a letter to UMBT Republicans before the May 2025 primary urging Republicans to write-in vote for Ms. Gilmour, a registered Democrat, on the Republican primary ballot; and (ii) is now actively campaigning for Ms. Gilmour over Mr. Erler for UMBT Supervisor for the November general election, including posting a conversation with Ms. Gilmour supporting her on his Facebook account;

THEREFORE, the Northampton County Republican Committee now announces and publishes this resolution of censure, and does, in fact, censure Mr. Birmingham for taking actions consistently and directly detrimental to the Republican Party in Northampton County and in Upper Mt. Bethel Township and directly contrary to the expressed wishes of the Republican electors in Upper Mt. Bethel Township in the 2025 primary petition process and the 2025 Republican primary.

